



EARJ EXTRA EDITION

Your Weekly Link to School News & Events!

School Wide News

April 27, 2007

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Midsummer's Night Dream Tropicalized



The Upper School Drama Club breathed tropical flavor into Shakespeare's comedy, *Midsummer's Night Dream*, a story of two couples in love with the wrong partners who are finally brought together because of the mistakes of a mischievous fairy. The stellar performance combining traditional Shakespearian dialogue with tropical imagery – samba, carnival and traditional costumes – brought down the house. The auditorium stage was turned into a "theater-in-the-round" so the audience experienced the Shakespearean revival up close. Congratulations to the Upper School drama team, our teachers who were actors and coaches, EA's behind the scenes maintenance crew and Ms. Shellee Hendricks for all of her determination and vision and for reviving Ruth Stanton's Escola Americana drama tradition.

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

A selection of vegetables, rice, beans, fruits and Jell-O are served everyday.

02	Meat Stroganoff	Grilled Chicken w/ Onion	Sautee Potatoes	Lettuce / Pumpkin Tomatoes Green Beans	Milk Pudding
03	Chicken w/ Cheese Shish kabob	Beef with Sauce	Corn Cream	Lettuce / Chicory Tomatoes Cabbage	Cuscus
04	Pizza	Grilled Chicken Strips w/ Onion	French fries	Lettuce / Tomatoes Pumpkin / Arucula	Chocolate Cake Ice cream

LOWER SCHOOL SECTION

We are pleased to announce that we have raised R\$8.400,00 from Weekly LS Bake Sales! Heartfelt thanks to all of our LS Room Mothers and parent volunteers supporting this weekly MuseOn Fundraiser. STUDENTS LOVE IT, and we see how every little bit helps in our Fundraising efforts!

News from the Lower School Library Media Center: We will soon be holding our annual LS Scholastic Book Fair. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase high-quality books in English at excellent prices! Book Fair dates will be published in next week's Extra Edition.

The Gávea Kindergarten students will be spending a day with their Barra Kindergarten friends on Friday, May 4th. Everyone will enjoy a full day of activities, including a swim in the pool and a picnic-style lunch.

Milk Campaign Update: Lower School students collected 88 cans of dry milk this Wednesday which was sent to creches Arte Tio Joao and Dois Irmaos in Rocinha. Thank you to all who are making such generous contributions.

Special thanks to:

- The LS parents who attended this month's Principal-Parent Breakfast in Gávea.
- The Barra parents who attended Parent-Teacher conferences this week. Your collaboration and support help us provide the best learning experience for your child.
- The third grade parents who joined us to watch the play performed by Mr. Dean's third grade students in honor of Book Month. Congratulations to everyone involved in this wonderful production and performance!

Where to Take Children on Weekends:

- One suggestion for this weekend (April 28th – May 1st) is to visit the lovely orchid exhibit at the Botanical Gardens.
- Another good suggestion for the upcoming weekends (up to May 27th) is to take the children to Caixa Cultural in downtown Rio to participate in activities organized by the storytelling group "Os Tapetes Contadores de Histórias". Caixa Cultural is located at Av. Almirante Barroso, 25. Please call 2544-7666 or check their webpage www.tapetescontadores.com.br

Mark your Calendars:

- School will be closed on Monday and Tuesday April 30th and May 1st for the Labor Day holidays.
- Primary Years Music Programs:
 - May 3rd – First Grade
 - May 4th – Second Grade
 - May 10th – Barra
 - May 11th – Gávea Preschool
 - May 11th - Kindergarten
 (Please check Ms. Elisa's letters for Time and place of performances)
- PTA Meetings:
 - May 7 – PTA Meeting – Gávea
 - May 8 – PTA Meeting – Barra
- May 16 – Early Dismissal (1:15)
- May 15 – 18: 5th Gr. Retreat
- May 31 – LS Celebration of the Arts / MuseOn Fundraiser

MIDDLE SCHOOL SECTION

Seventh Grade Parents – It was great to see so many of you at the student presentations on the drug and alcohol unit. Thanks for your interest and participation!

Spanish Night – Congratulations to all Spanish students who participated in the Spanish night on April 25th. It was wonderful to see what you have learned this year. Congratulations also go to Ms. Monica Lucas.

Middle School Pep Rally – It was wonderful to hear the cheers for the student athletes at the Pep Rally on Thursday. The Little Eight teams will travel to Nossa Recanto for their competition from May 2-5.

Habits of Mind – We are delighted to host Dr. Art Costa, founder of the Habits of Mind, during the week of May 7 – 11. For the past three years, the team leaders in the Middle School have been studying a program about developing thinking skills called the Habits of Mind. It is very exciting as it promotes all that we (parents and educators) feel is essential to success in life! According to Dr. Art Costa and Dr. Bena Kallick, originators of the Habits of Mind, the **HABITS OF MIND ATTEND TO:**

- **Value:** Choosing to employ a pattern of intellectual behaviors rather than other, less productive patterns.
- **Inclination:** Feeling the tendency toward employing a pattern of intellectual behaviors.
- **Sensitivity:** Perceiving opportunities for, and appropriateness of employing the pattern of behavior.
- **Capability:** Possessing the basic skills and capacities to carry through with the behaviors.
- **Commitment:** Constantly striving to reflect on and improve performance of the pattern of intellectual behavior.

We believe this program will help adults and students at Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro become more fluent in their thinking, and “develop thoughtful, compassionate, and cooperative human beings who can live productively in an increasingly chaotic, complex, and information-rich world.” (*Activating and Engaging the Habits of Mind*, pg xiii)

We have set a STUDENT and PARENT meeting with Dr. Costa for Wednesday, May 9 from 12:40 – 1:30 in the Auditorium. Please join us to hear more about the Habits of Mind from Dr. Costa.

Balls – Students are requested to NOT bring balls of any kind to school. Balls may be checked out at lunch time with Mr. Luiz in the PE Office. Thank you for helping your child to remember this.

Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List – Students will be congratulated and receive their certificates and donuts on Monday, May 7 during lunch.

Upcoming Events

May 7 – 11	Mr. Art Costa will be working with all MS Faculty on the Habits of Mind
May 9	Mid Quarter of Fourth Quarter
May 10	Student and Parent Presentation The Value of Habits of Mind by Mr. Art Costa
May 11	STUCO Talent Show
May 16	Early Dismissal Day (1:15 dismissal)
May 18 – 19	MS Girls’ Futsal Tournament

UPPER SCHOOL SECTION

A reminder to parents that the results of the Search Institute’s “Survey of Developmental Assets” will be shared at a special parent meeting on May 9 at 8 a.m. in the auditorium. The survey results provide both parents and the School with important information regarding the emotional, physical, and intellectual health of our students. In addition parents will be able to ask questions and a select group of students will be on hand to give an adolescent’s perspective. **PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT AND INFORMATIVE MEETING.** If interest is high enough, simultaneous translation (English to Portuguese) will be provided. Please contact Graca Mello on 2125-9091 if you would like to take advantage of this option.

On Tuesday, April 23 Health teacher Patricia Magalhães brought her “Health for Life” students to Vila Serena Clinic. Vila Serena treats patients for chemical dependency using the Minnesota model which treats chemical addiction as a chronic disease that can be treated, but not cured. The objective of the trip was to exposes students to “life lessons” from people who are attempting to regain control over their lives.

Ms. Magalhães would like to share a sample of student of comments regarding the experience.

- “The most important thing is to realize that you do have a problem. You will only stop when you decide that you have to treat it.”
- “From this field trip I learned one thing that is really important to everyone. Everyday is a new day and you have to live today, stop regretting the past or worrying about the future. ...It is never too late to start again.”
- “It was shocking to see how these people started as teenagers in my reality - drinking and smoking marijuana, and then reached a dead end road.”
- “These were great people; they just made bad decisions.”
- “Going to Vila Serena made me realize even more how drugs ruin people’s dreams. I was impressed the “depoimentos” I heard from people who had their lives just like mine in terms of educational opportunity and money. Drugs really changed their lives.”

Hopefully, our students will have gained wisdom to help them make healthy decisions about using alcohol and other drugs from people who are struggling to maintain sobriety “just for today”.

As the Upper School heads toward graduation we are set to begin both the external and internal examination cycle. International Baccalaureate exams are scheduled for May 2 – 23. Final exams for seniors will take place May 17 – 21 and final exams for underclassmen are set for June 6 – 12. Let’s wish our students good luck on their exams!

Upcoming Events:

May 9:	Parent Meeting. Results of the Developmental AssetSurvey, 8 a.m. in the Auditorium
May 9:	Mid Quarter
May 16:	Early Dismissal
May 17:	Upper School Global Warming Day
May 17 – 21:	Senior Final Exams
May 22:	Fine Arts Assembly
May 30:	US Awards Assembly
June 2:	Graduation. 4 p.m. in the auditorium
June 6 – 12:	Final Exams